

**In the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services comprising:

providing a digital subscriber line access multiplexer having a plurality of line cards, each line card having one or more ports;

granting control of a first subset of the ports to a first service provider; ~~and~~

granting control of a second subset of the ports to a second service provider; and

wherein a first one of the line cards comprises at least two ports and wherein granting control of a first subset of the ports to a first service provider comprises granting control of a first subset of the ports on the first one of the line cards and granting control of a second subset of the ports comprises granting control of a second subset of the ports on the first one of the line cards.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein granting control of a first subset of the ports to a first service provider comprises granting permission to the first service provider to access a network operation center associated with the digital subscriber line access multiplexer.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein granting control of a first subset of the ports to a first service provider comprises granting permission to the first service provider to access an element manager framework server associated with the digital subscriber line access multiplexer.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for providing communications services comprising;

providing a digital subscriber line access multiplexer having a plurality of line cards, each line card having one or more ports;

coupling a network operation center to the digital subscriber line access multiplexer;

receiving at the network operation center from a first service provider configuration information regarding a first subset of the ports on a first one of the line cards and ~~communicating~~ communicating, by the network operation center, the configuration information regarding the first subset of ports to the digital subscriber line access multiplexer; and

receiving at the network operation center from a second service provider configuration information regarding a second subset of the ports on the first one of the line cards; and

communicating, by the network operation center, configuration information from the second service provider ~~regarding a~~ regarding the second subset of the ports to the digital subscriber line access multiplexer.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein receiving at the network operation center from a first service provider configuration information regarding a first subset of the ports comprises receiving configuration information through a user interface.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein receiving at the network operation center from a second service provider configuration information regarding a ~~second subsets~~ second subset of the ports comprises receiving configuration information at an element manager framework server in the network operation center.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein receiving at the network operation center from a second service provider configuration information regarding a ~~second subsets~~ second subset of the ports comprises receiving configuration information at an ILEC DSL manager server in the network operating center.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein communicating, by the network operation center, the configuration information from the second service provider

regarding a ~~second subsets~~ second subset of the ports to the digital subscriber line access multiplexer comprises communicating the configuration information through an out-of-band network.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein communicating, by the network operation center, the configuration information from the second service provider regarding a ~~second subsets~~ second subset of the ports to the digital subscriber line access multiplexer comprises communicating the configuration ~~intersection~~ information through an in-band network.

13. (Currently Amended) A digital subscriber line access multiplexer comprising:  
a network interface card;  
a plurality of line cards coupled to the network interface; the plurality of line cards including a first line card having first and second subsets of ports; and  
wherein the first subset of ports of the first line card is under the control of a first service provider and the second subset of ports is under the control of a second service provider.

~~wherein a first set of the line cards is associated with a first service provider; and~~  
~~wherein a second set of line cards is associated with a second service provider.~~

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The digital subscriber line access multiplexer of Claim 13, and further comprising a configuration line coupling the digital subscriber line access multiplexer to a network operation center, the network operation center accessible by the first and second service providers.

19. (Original) The digital subscriber line access multiplexer of Claim 13, wherein each line card comprises a plurality of modems coupled by respective copper pairs to subscribers of either the first, second, or another service provider.

20. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising:  
a digital subscriber line access multiplexer having a plurality of line cards, each line card having a plurality of ports;  
a network operation center coupled to the digital subscriber line access multiplexer, the network operation center comprising:  
a digital subscriber line manager operable to provide a user interface to a first service provider to ~~control~~ control a first subset of the ports, the digital subscriber line manager further operable to host one or more client interfaces each associated with a respective service provider, and receive configuration data from the respective service provider associated with a respective subset of the ports; and  
an element manager operable to receive configuration ~~in~~ information from the digital subscriber line manager and configure the DSLAM based on the received configuration information; and  
wherein the first subset of ports is coupled to a customer of the first service provider and a first one of the respective subsets of the ports is coupled to a second service provider, the first subset of ports and the first one of the respective subsets of ports being on the same one of the plurality of line cards.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the network operations center and the digital subscriber line access multiplexer reside in a telecommunications central office.

24. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the digital subscriber line access multiplexer communicates with the network operating center by out-of-band communications.

25. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the digital subscriber line access multiplexer communicates with the network operating center by in-band communications.

26. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising:  
a digital subscriber line access multiplexer having a plurality of line cards, each line card having a plurality of ports, a first subset of the ports associated with an incumbent local exchange carrier, and one or more additional subsets of the ports associated with one or more respective competitive local exchange carriers;

an incumbent local exchange carrier network operation center having:

a digital subscriber line manager operable to provide a user interface to the incumbent local exchange carrier associated with the first subset of ports to receive configuration data, and further operable to provide data indicative of the received configuration data to an element manager; and

the element manager coupled to the digital subscriber line access multiplexer, the element manager operable to control the plurality of ports in response to received configuration data; ~~and~~

one or more competitive digital subscriber line managers operable to provide a user interface to the respective competitive local exchange carrier and receive configuration data associated with the respective additional subsets of the ports, and further operable to provide the received configuration data associated with the respective additional subsets of the ports to the element manager; and

wherein the first subset of ports is coupled to a customer of the incumbent local exchange carrier and a first one of the one or more additional subsets of the ports is coupled to a customer of the one or more respective competitive local exchange carriers, the first subset of ports and the first one of the one or more additional subsets of ports being on the same one of the plurality of line cards.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Original) The system of Claim 26 wherein the incumbent local exchange carrier and the DSLAM both reside in a telecommunications central office.

30. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising:  
a digital subscriber access multiplexer having a plurality of line cards, each line card having a plurality of ports;  
a means for allowing configuration of a first subset of the ports on a first one of the line cards by a first service provider;  
a means for allowing configuration of a second subset of the ports on the first one of the line cards by a second service provider; and  
wherein the first subset of ports are coupled to customers of the first service provider, and the second subset of ports are coupled to the customers of the second service provider.